

REMARKS

In the Office Action of June 29, 2005, Claims 1-3, 5, 10, 12-15, 20-23, 25, 28-35, 38-40, 43 and 45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,029,195, to Herz, in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,421,612, to Agrafiotis et al. Claims 36, 37, 41, 42 and 44 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter, and in response has amended Claims 36, 41, 42 and 44 as suggested by the Examiner to be rewritten in independent form and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. New sets of dependent claims for independent Claims 41 and 42 have been added, including dependent claim sets 46-52 and 53-59, respectively. These new dependent claims correspond to dependent Claims 2, 3, 5, 33-35 and 40, which previously depended from Claim 1.

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CONCLUSION

Based on the above-referenced amendments and the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the present application, Claims 2, 3, 5, 21-23 and 34-59 are allowable. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests allowance of the present application. If any questions remain, applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date:

July 29 2005

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